

COLLABORATIVE PLAN AND FUNDING CONTINUATION APPLICATION For Special Education Cooperatives

Indicator F – Disproportionality

Updated 02-28-08

Kentucky Department of Education
Division of Exceptional Children Services
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SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE:

Caveland Educational Support Center

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NAME OF FISCAL AGENT:

Green River Regional Educational Cooperative

CONTACT PERSON FOR FISCAL AGENT:

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Member Districts

Allen County

Barren County

Bowling Green Ind.

Butler County

Caverna Ind.

Cumberland County

Edmonson County

Glasgow Ind.

Member Districts

Green County

Hart County

Logan County

Metcalfe County

Monroe County

Russellville Ind.

Simpson County

Todd County

Member Districts

Warren County

Federal Fiscal year 2008
School Year 2007-2008

Indicator F	Percent of districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification.
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1. Analyze the data relevant to the indicator. Discuss any additional data that has been gathered.

Most of the Caveland districts are small, rural communities that have very low percentages of minority students. Bowling Green Independent, however, has one of the most diverse student populations in the state. When reviewing regional disproportionality rates, we find that our areas of concern are in the categories of mental disabilities and emotional behavioral disabilities for African-American students.

2. What are the possible root causes for the regional performance?

Education

- Superintendents may not be informed about issues related to disproportionality
- School staff need training on dealing with discipline issues related to cultural diversity

Data

- Directors would like to view disproportionality data in light of free/reduced lunch
- Disproportionality data should be presented to the GRREC board.

Other

- Poverty of minority students may contribute to high rates of disproportionality
- Implementing RTI should have a positive impact on disproportionality rates

3. What regional needs have been identified and prioritized?

Because this is a relatively new area of concern, the highest priority need is for more education about disproportionality and culturally relevant teaching strategies. We need to educate ourselves and others about disproportionality and cultural issues as well as how poverty may contribute to the problem.

4. List activities that will be conducted to maintain or improve regional performance in the table below.

Strategies/Activities	Responsible Person(s)	Timelines	Update
Administrative Support			
1. Analyze data from district monitoring profiles on a regional basis rather than district by district to see if there are instances of regional disproportionality.	Pam Coe Deb Myers	7/06	I - C
2. Keep districts informed about state level initiatives and directives regarding disproportionality.	Pam Coe	Ongoing	I - O
3. Continue to investigate root causes for regional disproportionality data.	Pam Coe	3/07	I - O
Professional Development/Technical Assistance			
4. Provide training for school psychologists in interpreting data from district monitoring profiles and insuring bias-free identification and placement decision-making	Deb Myers	12/06	I - C

Networking/Collaborating			
5. Collaborate with KDE to develop and disseminate best practices information for districts regarding insuring cultural bias-free eligibility and placement decisions	Pam Coe	Ongoing	IP
6. <i>Districts will be encouraged to conduct a self-assessment using the NCCREST tool.</i>	<i>Pam Coe</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
7. <i>Directors will participate in a book study using the books “Why Are So Many Minority Students in Special Education?” and “How to Teach Students Who Don’t Look Like You: Culturally Relevant Teaching Strategies”</i>	<i>Pam Coe</i>	<i>12/08</i>	
8. <i>Data will be reviewed to determine if there is a correlation between districts with high rates of Disproportionality and high rates of free/reduced lunch.</i>	<i>Pam Coe</i>	<i>5/08</i>	
9. <i>Disproportionality data will be shared with superintendents.</i>	<i>Pam Coe</i>	<i>5/08</i>	

<u>Update Codes</u>		
I=Implemented	C=Completed	New Activities in <i>bold italics</i>
IP=Implemented Partially	O=Ongoing	
NI=Not Implemented	D=Discontinued	